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9. — *Camp, Court, and Siege: A Narrative of Personal Adventure and Observation during Two Wars 1861–1865, 1870–1871.* BY WICKHAM HOFFMAN, Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Volunteers, and Secretary U. S. Legation at Paris. 12mo. New York: Harper Brothers. pp. 285.

SINCE the early years of this century there has been no epoch more fruitful of stirring events than that comprised between the years 1861 and 1871. The sketch which Colonel Wickham Hoffman has given us in "Court, Camp, and Siege" of the part which he played in these events derives its chief interest from the fact that in the scenes which he describes he occupied a position which afforded him opportunities of acquiring information denied to the ordinary observer. Throughout the military operations in Louisiana he served under Generals Butler, Banks, and Franklin, nearly always in a staff capacity, while as Secretary of the American Legation at Paris, he was brought into intimate relations with the Court of the Emperor Napoleon, and on the overthrow of that monarch saw the inside workings of the commune from a vantage-ground denied to the members of the other legations. To the ordinary reader Colonel Hoffman's French experiences will be read with a deeper interest than those which he shared in common with so many of his own countrymen in the South during the war. He does not shrink from giving us his estimate of the generals with whom he came into contact, supporting it with facts which will doubtless interest many of our military readers, and the conclusions he draws may possibly be open to criticism. His Parisian experiences, on the other hand, are in many respects unique, and throw light on some important passages of contemporary history. Considering the importance of the period through which Colonel Hoffman passed, and the knowledge he must necessarily have acquired, we almost regret that his account is so sketchy and meagre. We have glimmerings of light where we should gladly have had a fuller blaze. This may partly be due to the fact that the writer's official position has obliged him to observe a certain reticence, and is doubtless in some measure to be attributed to the absence of that literary faculty which might have enabled him to impart a more picturesque and lively coloring to the sensational episodes which he so lightly touches upon. Still we are thankful for what we have got. Colonel Hoffman's book possesses a distinct historical value; if it is not brilliant, it is readable, and there are occasional touches of humor which redeem it from anything like dullness. We put it down with a sensation of regret that a writer who has seen so much should have given us so little, and of gratitude that he has not

so far distrusted his own powers as to shrink from giving us anything at all. Should fate reserve for him another decade of sensational history, we trust that he will rise to the importance of the subject, and treat it in a manner worthy its dignity and interest for future students.

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10. — *The Nineteenth Century. A Monthly Review.* Edited by JAMES KNOWLES. London: Henry S. King & Co. 1877.

THE appearance of a new and prominent monthly review in the arena of periodical literature is an event of no common importance. We have in the establishment of the *Nineteenth Century*, in face of numerous rivals, fresh proof of the growing demand for the best organs of miscellaneous and weighty thought. Within a few years more new reviews and magazines have been started in Great Britain than were published during the previous half-century. For a long time the English public contented itself with the *Edinburgh*, *Quarterly*, and *Westminster Reviews*, and with *Blackwood's*, *Fraser's*, and two or three other magazines. But although the difference between the manner and the matter of these periodicals was quite remarkable, readers have come to demand still greater variety, and in the case of reviews have generally wearied of a three months' interval. The publication of monthly reviews was accordingly adopted in England, and with notable success. In one or two instances these periodicals have even hastened their appearance by adopting the fortnightly issue, and have gone far to supersede the magazine. This frequency of appearance and more timely consideration of topics has by no means diminished, but perhaps rather increased, the general excellence of articles. How to account for this may be difficult. Is it not that knowledge of late has rapidly increased, is more swiftly methodized by thinkers, and that the quickness of mental movement has ceased to detract from its weight? Moreover, the roll of scholars and writers of the highest order has been largely extended, and there can be no doubt that able contributors are now more easily obtained in Great Britain than when Jeffrey drummed up writers for the *Edinburgh*, and Sir Walter Scott did the same necessary service for its rival, the *Quarterly*.

In the *Nineteenth Century* we now have a representative of the freshest and most vigorous English thought, and not only do its pages embody the best intellect of the country, but, like our own, they offer a common battle-ground to the thinkers of all parties and all sects.

Seldom if ever has the initial number of any publication met with such surpassing success, and called forth such unmixed praise. This